FINGER GUARD

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates generally to door guards and, more specifically, to door guards to prevent little children from getting their fingers pinched between the door and the door jamb of self closing screen doors and the like.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

One of the problems with hinged doors is that, as the door is swung open, a gap is formed between the edge of the door and the door jamb. When the door is closed, the gap closes as the edge of the door moves into the gap. However, because of the mechanics of the door, the door itself becomes a lever arm where closing the door with only a small force can generate a substantial force at the edge of the door which can crush or break a child's finger located in the gap between the door and the door jamb. Small children are often unaware of the danger and may place their fingers in the gap between the door and the door jamb.

The prior art is replete with various types of door guards. However, some of the guards must be specially modified to fit the door or the door casing by placing the guard between the door and the door jamb. Others have some type of protrusion which projects outward when the door is opened or closed. And still others have members that ride or wear against the door, causing damage to the door. Since door guards are usually only necessary when children are small, one desires to have a door guard to quickly and temporarily attach to the door and the door casing, and when the children become aware of the dangers of placing their fingers between the door and the jamb, the door guard can be removed.

The present invention provides an inexpensive door guard that prevents little children from having a closing door crush their fingers. The door guard lays flat along the door and casing and does not protrude outward to interfere with the motion of the door or to interfere with any person going in or out.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

U.S. Pat. No. 2,995,785 shows a door guard having a U-shape with members extending on the opposite sides of the door. The U-shaped members have rollers that roll along the surface of the door. Besides marring the door through wear, the unit requires removal of the door for installation of the door guard.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,040,142 shows a safety device which folds outward when the door is closed and folds inward to cover the opening when the door is open. When in the closed position or the open position, the door guard folded-out portion protrudes outward to provide an obstacle for those who pass through the door.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,878,267 shows a door guard having a closed shape which fits in the opening between the door and the door jamb and requires reworking the door and the door jamb to accommodate the thickness of the door guard.

U.S. Pat. No. 2,641,792 shows a hinge guard which protrudes outward when the door is open or closed.

U.S. Pat. No. 2,694,234 shows a finger guard for swinging doors in which members project outward from each side of the door casing and the door.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,302,690 shows a guard for multiple-section doors in which door guard units project outward.

U.S. Pat. No. 3,319,697 shows a garage-door guard where members slide along the outside of the garage door during the opening and closing of the garage door.

U.S. Pat. No. 4,710,049 shows a safety hinge which is padded to prevent injury to the child.

U.S. Pat. No. 1,444,398 shows a hinge guard having a bellows-like member which expands and contracts to cover the opening between the door and the casing.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention comprises a slidable door guard for temporarily bridging and covering the opening between a door and the door casing, with the door guard having a male member and a female member having a wear pocket to secure and hold the first member therein as the door is opened and closed.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

FIG. **1** is a partial cut-away view of a door and casing with my door guard therein;

FIG. **2** is an exploded pictorial view of the door guard of my invention;

FIG. **3** is a cross-sectional view taken along line **3**—**3** of FIG. **1** showing the door in the closed position;

FIG. **4** is a cross-sectional view taken along line **3**—**3** of Figure showing the door in a partially open position.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

FIG. **1** reference numeral **9** generally identifies the wall of a house with a screen door **11** located therein. Door **11** fits within the confines of a door jamb **10** and an outer casing **18** and includes a door knob **13** for opening and closing door **11** and a door closure member **41**. Located along the right edge of door **11** is my door guard comprising a first rigid engaging or male member **15** and a second receiving or female member **14** secured to the casing. Located along the opposite side of door **11** are hinges **35** (FIG. **3** and **4**). Female member has a length h that extends approximately 36 inches; however, if desired member **14** and member **15** could extend along the entire side of door **11**.

FIG. **2** shows the door guard of my invention in greater detail. My door guard comprises a first one-piece rigid male member **15** having an integral hinging region **15***d* and a general rectangular and elongated shape **33** and a female member **14** also having an integral hinging region **40** and a general rectangular and elongated shape. First member **15** has a strip of pressure sensitive adhesive **30** located on one side thereof. Male member **15** comprises three distinct regions. A first elongated region **15***b* extends along one edge of member **15**, an intermediate region **15***c* extends along the interior region of member **15** and an edge region **15***a* extends along the outer portion of member **15**. Members **15***a* and **15***c* slidingly engage the female member, while member **15***b* remains fixed to door **11** and therefore outside of female member **14**.

FIG. **2** shows the male member **15** partially cut away to reveal the orientation of the corrugation or ribs **34** when the unit is made of rigid material such as cardboard; that is, the ribs **34** run latitudinally or perpendicular to the door side casing **18** to allow the member **15** to lay flat along the door and to pivot at the flexible hinging region **15***d* as the door **11** is opened.